

---

 XXVII. EXTRACTS *from the* MINUTE BOOK *of the* Linnean Society.

November 4, 1788. **M**R. DRYANDER communicated to the Society, from Sir Joseph Banks, Bart. a specimen of an incomplete Buprestis; sent to Sir Joseph from the Committee of Warehouses of the East India Company, on account of the damage it had done to a bale of muslins. It was found in its present state on opening a bale of piece goods received from Bengal, and appeared to have eaten through fifteen pieces of muslin, of eight or ten folds in each piece, making itself a passage of about its own size.

This Buprestis, in size, shape, impressed *lunula* of the thorax, shield, and canaliculated abdomen, exactly resembles the Buprestis *canaliculata* Fabr. *Mant.* p. 181, n. 58, but differs in colour. The *B. canaliculata* wants the two golden spots on the thorax, which this has, like those of *B. vittata*. The abdomen of *B. canaliculata* is bright purple on the upper side; in this it is of a shining green, appearing in certain lights of a dark blue. The under side of the same part is in *B. canaliculata* of a dull copper colour, in this of a bright green.

The *B. canaliculata* is said to come from *Africa æquinoctialis*  
(Sierra

(Sierra Leona); but that rests entirely on the authority of the label in Sir Joseph Banks's collection, which may possibly be erroneous.

Of forty species of Buprestis in the cabinet of Sir Joseph Banks, none but the *B. canaliculata* has all the joints of the abdomen canaliculated; nor is such a shield to be found except in that species and another, described from the same cabinet by Mr. Fabricius, during his last stay in England, under the name of *quadridentata*.

December 2, 1788. The President laid before the Society a drawing of a singular Pidgeon, accompanied with the following letter from Mr. Latham.

“ DEAR SIR,

“ WITH this you will receive an accurate drawing, by  
“ Mr. Lewin, of a *Lufus Naturæ* in a dove-house Pidgeon,  
“ now in my collection.

“ All I know of the history of this extraordinary produc-  
“ tion is, that, a few years since, a person employed to take  
“ all the young birds from their holes, for the use of the  
“ table, observed this singular specimen in one of the nests,  
“ along with another fledged in the usual manner, the pro-  
“ duce of one hatch. His curiosity being excited, he brought  
“ it into the house; where it lived for a month or longer,  
“ and then died.

“ The peculiarity of this subject consists in its not having  
“ a single *complete* feather on any part of its body, although  
“ entitled from its age to have been fully fledged; instead of  
“ which, every feather is still inclosed in a case the whole of  
“ its

“ its length, which in some of the greater quills amounts to six  
“ inches. Indeed a kind of fringe appears at the ends of most of  
“ the feathers ; and, on dissecting a feather, the shaft is found  
“ by no means destitute of web, but the latter is confined  
“ merely by the surrounding sheath. It can scarcely have  
“ escaped the notice of an observer, that when a new feather  
“ first makes its appearance on the body of a bird, a tender  
“ filmy substance environs and defends it, during its infant  
“ state. But no sooner does the web increase to any strength,  
“ than the film gives way, and the feather continues to grow  
“ to its perfect maturity.

“ That this disease did not occasion the bird's death, I am  
“ certain ; as it appeared healthy and well during the time it  
“ lived.

“ I shall be happy if the above short history and drawing  
“ should prove worthy the notice of the Linnean Society.

“ I am, &c.

(Signed)

“ JOHN LATHAM.”

DARTFORD,  
November 4, 1788.

March 2, 1790. The President exhibited some descriptions in Italian, accompanied with rude drawings, of several rare plants found near Bologna in 1652, appearing to be an original manuscript of Zannoni, the property of Mr. Thomas F. Forster, jun. of Threadneedle Street.

F I N I S.